

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 00269 152133Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /056 W

----- 116201

O R 152055Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4144

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

DIA/DOD/WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0269

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: MRS. PERON RESHUFFLES CABINET

REF: A) BUENOS AIRES 8414, B) BUENOS AIRES 0221, C) SMITH-APU
TELECON

1. IN MOVE WHICH HAD BEEN RUMORED FOR SOME TIME, MRS. PERON THIS MORNING REORGANIZED HER CABINET. SHE ASKED FOR RESIGNATION OF ALL MINISTERS AND WHEN THEY WERE TENDERED, ACCEPTED FOUR. ROBLEDO, ARAUZ CASTEX, VOTTERO AND CORVALAN NANCLARES WERE BOUNCED AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE, AND JUSTICE, RESPECTIVELY. CAFIERO, RUCKHAUF, ARRIGHI AND DEMARCO WERE CONFIRMED AS MINISTERS OF ECONOMY, LABOR, EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL WELFARE, RESPECTIVELY. ROBERTO ARES, CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF BANCO DE LA NACION, WAS APPOINTED AS NEW MINISTER OF INTERIOR. JOSE ALBERTO DEHEZA REPLACED CORVALAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 00269 152133Z

NANCLARES AS JUSTICE MINISTER. FOR THE MOEMENT, ARRIGHI WILL

ACT AS FOREIGN MINISTER AS WELL AS CARRYING EDUCATION PORTFOLIO AND DEHEZA WILL ACT AS INTERIM DEFENSE MINISTER.

2. COMMENT: CHANGES SIGNIFY A CLEANING OUT OF ROBLEDO AND ALLIES. VOTTERO, ARAUZ CASTEX AND CORVALAN NANCLARES WERE ALL CLOSE TO HIM AND SHARED HIS POINT OF VIEW. (ALL WERE ALSO OLD FRIENDS OF SENATOR LUDER.) ROBLEDO'S POLITICAL DEMISE DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE PROPORTIONAL INCREASE IN POWER OF LORENZO MIGUEL. ROBERTO ARES IS MODERATE OF GOMEZ MORALES SCHOOL NOT KNOWN TO BE CLOSE TO LORENZO MIGUEL OR LABOR LEADERS GENERALLY. HOWEVER, HE HAS NOT PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE SINCE 1971 (WHEN HE RESIGNED FROM PERONIST COUNCIL IN PROTEST OF CAMPORA'S APPOINTMENT TO REPLACE PALADINO, TO WHOM ARES WAS VERY CLOSE). HENCE, IT NOT ALTOGETHER CLEAR WHERE HE STANDS NOW IN RELATION TO VARIOUS SPLITS WITHIN PERONIST MOVEMENT.

3. WHETHER OR NOT CHANGES SIGNIFY STRENGTHENING OF LORENZO MIGUEL-JULIO GONZALEZ LINE, THEY OBVIOUSLY REFLECT DEFEAT FOR ROBLEDO AND HIS. ONE WOULD NOW EXPECT MUCH BALLYHOOED "NATIONAL PROJECT," FOR EXAMPLE, TO BE PRETTY MUCH SHELVED. PROJECT ITSELF MAY HAVE BEEN SHAM ANYWAY (THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN IT SAY IT WAS LITTLE MORE THAN RECOMPILATION OF PERON'S LAST SPEECHES), BUT ROBLEDO'S PURPOSE IN RAISING IT WAS CLEAR AND SERIOUS, I.E., TO GET BACK TO DIALOGUE AND CONSENSUS POLITICS THAT CHARACTERIZED POLITICAL SCENE PRIOR TO PERON'S DEATH. LORENZO MIGUEL, JULIO GONZALEZ AND THOSE OF THEIR ilk, HOWEVER, LOCKED IN COMBAT WITH CALABRO AND ANTIVERTICALISTAS, ARE NOT AT ALL INTERESTED IN DIALOGUE; ON CONTRARY, THEY WERE AND ARE PUSHING FOR INTERVENTION OF BA AND SANTA FE PROVINCES AND EXPULSION OF ANTIVERTICALISTAS FROM MOVEMENT (SEE REF A).

4. NONETHELESS, FACT THAT ROBLEDO HAS BEEN OUSTED DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT DEFENESTRATION OF ROBLEDO IS HALF-LOAF. MRS. PERON IS GIVING LORENZO MIGUEL FOR MOMENT IN LIEU OF INTERVENTION, WHICH SHE REALIZES WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS MOVE RIGHT NOW (SEE REF B).

5. TO LEAVE FOREIGN MINISTRY UNCOVERED AT MOMENT WHEN GOA IS IN SOMETHING OF A CONFRONTATION WITH LONDON AND HAS OTHER

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 00269 152133Z

CRITICAL FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS IS STRANGE INDEED. ARGENTINA'S FOREIGN POLICY POSTURE WILL PROBABLY THUS SUFFER EVEN FURTHER DETERIORATION.

6. EQUALLY SURPRISING IS FACT THAT DEFENSE MINISTER'S JOB HAS BEEN LEFT UNFILLED--EVEN IF ONLY FOR A FEW DAYS. PERHAPS GOA COULD FIND NO ONE WHO WISHED TO PLACE HIMSELF BETWEEN ARMED FORCES AND GOVERNMENT AT THIS PARTICULAR JUNCTURE.

7. MRS. PERON'S PURPOSE IN RESHUFFLING CABINET IS DOUBTLESS TO STRENGTHEN HER OWN POSITION--ESPECIALLY VIS-A-VIS LUDER--AND TO SIGNAL THAT SHE IS GOING ON OFFENSIVE. WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL HAVE THAT EFFECT, HOWEVER, REMAINS VERY MUCH TO BE SEEN. MILITARY HAVE YET TO BE HEARD FROM. THEY MAY NOT BE OUTRAGED BY CHANGES, BUT THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE PLEASED EITHER. IN THIS SENSE, MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON WHO IS EVENTUALLY APPOINTED TO FILL DEFENSE PORTFOLIO.

8. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, ROBLEDO'S FAILURE WAS PROBABLY INEVITABLE. HE WAS TRYING TO RESTORE SEMBLANCE OF UNITY TO A MOVEMENT (AND A SITUATION) WHICH MAY HAVE ALREADY PASSED CRITICAL POINT OF FRAGMENTATION. FURTHER, HE WAS TRYING TO DO SO WITH AN ADMINISTRATION IN WHICH FEW ANY LONGER HAVE CONFIDENCE. HE WAS, FINALLY, TRYING TO SAVE MRS. PERON FROM HERSELF. IT WAS MORE THAN HE WAS UP TO.

9. CABINET CHANGES WOULD SEEM TO SUGGEST NO BASIC CHANGES WITH RESPECT TO ARGENTINA'S POSTURE VIS-A-VIS US INTERESTS. CAFIERO REMAINS IN PLACE AND ARES IS MODERATE WHO IS WELL DISPOSED TO US.
BEAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS00269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760015-1163
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760155/aaaabwun.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BUENOS AIRES 8414, 76 BUENOS AIRES 221
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MRS. PERON RESHUFFLES CABINET
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006